

CLAIMS

1. Use of a substance having oxytocin antagonistic properties for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease relating to oxytocin-induced vascular contractility.

2. Use of a substance according to claim 1, wherein said substance is a peptide.

3. Use according to claim 2, wherein said peptide is chosen from the group comprising pentapeptides, hexapeptides, heptapeptides, octapeptides, nonapeptides and decapeptides.

4. Use according to claim 3, wherein said peptide is chosen from the group comprising atosiban, barusiban and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5. Use according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein said medicament is for the treatment of hypertension.

6. Use according to claim 5, wherein said medicament is for the treatment of hypertension relating to pregnancy.

7. Use according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein said oxytocin-induced vascular contractility is present in uterine vessels, vessels in placenta or foetus.

8. Use according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein said oxytocin-induced vascular contractility is present in vessels in the heart, the kidneys, the brain, the thymus, the pancreas or any other vessels.

9. Use according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein said medicament is for the treatment of preeclampsia, intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR), hypoperfusion of the foetus, pregnancy induced hypertension (PIH), toxemia, HELLP syndrome or eclampsia.

10. A method of treatment comprising administration of a pharmaceutically effective amount of a substance having oxytocin antagonistic properties to a subject suffering from a disease relating to oxytocin-induced vascular contractility.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said substance is a peptide.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein said peptide is chosen from the group comprising penta-  
5 peptides, hexapeptides, heptapeptides, octapeptides, nonapeptides and decapeptides.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said peptide is chosen from the group comprising atosiban, barusiban and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

10 14. A method according to any one of claims 10-13, wherein said disease is hypertension.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein said hypertension relates to pregnancy.

15 16. A method according to any one of claims 10-15, wherein said oxytocin-induced vascular contractility is present in uterine vessels, vessels in placenta or foetus.

20 17. A method according to any one of claims 10-14, wherein said oxytocin-induced vascular contractility is present in the heart, the kidney, the brain, the thymus, the pancreas or any other vessels.

25 18. A method according to any one of claims 10-16, wherein said disease is preeclampsia, intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR), hypoperfusion of the foetus, pregnancy induced hypertension (PIH), toxemia, HELLP syndrome or eclampsia.

19. A method according to any one of claims 10-18, wherein said subject is a human.